



Regionally Coordinated Transportation Planning

PURPOSE

The purpose of the regionally coordinated transportation planning (RCTP) effort is to provide more efficient and effective public transportation services, especially for people with health and human service needs.

STATE AND FEDERAL MANDATE

- Transportation Code. In 2003, the Texas legislature and governor added Chap. 461 requiring coordination of public transportation services funded with federal, state, or local funds.
- Executive Order 13330 on Human Services Transportation Coordination. In 2004, President George W. Bush signed Executive Order 13330 calling for:
 - Reducing duplication among federally funded human service transportation services
 - Increasing efficient delivery of services
 - Expanding access to transportation services for older persons, persons with disabilities, persons with low incomes, children, and others
- The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act (SAFETEA-LU). In 2005, the federal transportation bill called for establishing locally-developed, coordinated public transit / human services transportation plans. Three Federal Transportation Administration programs were explicitly linked to these plans: Jobs Access Reverse Commute (JARC), New Freedom, and Elderly Individuals and Individuals with Disabilities.

FUNDING FROM TxDOT TO LOCAL AGENCIES

- Initial funding. In 2006, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) contracted with local agencies to develop a regionally coordinated plan for each of Texas' 24 designated state planning regions.
 - One locally-recommended agency serves as lead agency for coordinating regional transportation activities.
 - Most lead agencies are councils of government / regional planning commissions. Others include entities such as metropolitan planning organizations, a county, or a city.
- Continuation Funding. TxDOT has provided funding in fiscal years 2008, 2009 and 2010 to lead agencies to move forward with regionally coordinated transportation planning activities.

LEAD AGENCY ROLE

The lead agency role includes:

- Continuing oversight and management of the development, implementation, and ongoing modification of a current RCTP workplan. The lead agency assures that workplan activities move forward and goals and objectives are accomplished satisfactorily and on time.
- Facilitating discussion and keeping others engaged in the planning process. This includes effectively managing a regionally coordinated transportation steering committee.

STEERING COMMITTEES

Fundamental to the regional planning effort is the routine engagement of a steering committee to provide insight and guidance on regional public transportation issues and activities. These activities include but are not limited to plan-development and updates, oversight of implementation efforts, and routine provision of forums for discussing new opportunities and challenges. At a minimum, committees must include representatives of:

- health and human services agencies
- transportation providers
- workforce agencies
- the general public.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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